

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-9 are currently pending. Of these, claims 3 and 4 are "objected to". Claims 5-6 are withdrawn from consideration.

II. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The arrow in FIG. 1 from first portion 106a of signal wire 106 to the input of summing circuit 114 represents the probe tip. See, for example, paragraph [0013] of the specification.

Also, element 208 in FIG. 2 represents the probe tip. See, for example, paragraph [0016] of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

III. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 2 AND 7-9 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MARKOZEN (U.S. PATENT 6,462,528)

Claim 2 specifically recites "active circuitry identifying a voltage drop between the ground of the device under test and the ground of the measurement device and connecting the signal for the voltage drop prior to reaching the measurement device." Markozen fails to disclose, teach or suggest such a feature.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cites to (column 4, lines 43-51) of Markozen as sections that purport to teach Applicant's invention. However, an evaluation of these sections and a complete review of Markozen reveal that Markozen fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the specifics of Applicant's claimed invention as specifically recited in, for example, claim 2.

Instead, Markozen discloses how the circuitry of FIG. 5 functions independently with respect to variations in the resistance of resistor R_{TIP} because $V_{REFERENCE}$ (the center of the expected signal swing) is used to terminate the signal seen at node V_X . As a result, as the resistance value of resistor R_{TIP} varies, the amplitude of the signal at V_X changes, but the signal swing remains centered about $V_{REFERENCE}$ because the DC component has been removed. See, Markozen at column 4, lines 44-51, FIG. 5.

Thus, Markozen discloses how to **maintain the signal swing centered about $V_{REFERENCE}$** as the resistance values varies. This is in stark contrast to Applicant's claimed invention as specifically recited in, for example, claim 2 wherein there is active circuitry **identifying a voltage drop** between the ground of the device under test and the ground of the

measurement device and **connecting the signal for the voltage drop prior to reaching the measurement device**. Further understanding and appreciation for Applicant's claimed invention would be found in, for example, page 2, paragraph [0005] and page 4, paragraph [0014] of the specification of the present application. As such, the emphasis in Markozen to maintain the signal swing centered about a $V_{\text{REFERENCE}}$ as the resistance values varies fails to focus on Applicant's claimed invention as specifically recited in, for example, claim 2 which requires connecting the signal for the voltage drop prior to reaching the measurement device.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome with respect to claim 2.

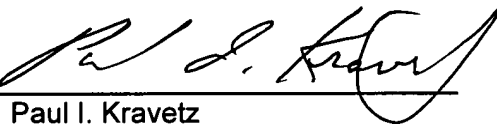
Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of claims 7-9 over the cited references.

IV. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 31, 2005

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